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FYI - IPCDN terminology

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INTERNET-DRAFT IPCDN Terms of Reference

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Upstream The set of frequencies used to send data from a sub-
***** scriber to the headend.

Downstream The set of frequencies used to send data from a headend
***** to a subscriber.

Subsplit A frequency allocation plan where 5-42 MHz is used for
 upstream data and 50+MHz is used for downstream data.

Midsplit A frequency allocation plan where 5-108 MHz is used for
 upstream data and 178+ is used for downstream data.

Cable Modem Any device which modulates and demodulates digital data
 onto a CATV plant.

Headend Central distribution point for a CATV system. Video sig-
***** nals are received here from satellite (either co-located
 or remoted), frequency converted to the appropriate chan-
 nels, combined with locally originate signals, and
 rebroadcast onto the HFC plant. For a CATV data system,
 the headend is the typical place to link between the HFC
 system and any external data networks.

Distribution Hub A smaller or remote headend distribution point for a
 CATV system. Video signals are received here from
 another site (headend), and redistributed. Sometimes a
 small number of locally originated signals are added.
 Such signals might be city information channels, HFC
 cable modem signals or the like.

Optical Node A device used to convert broadband RF (radio frequency,
 e.g. television signals) to/from a fiber optic signal.

Fiber Node Also "Node". An optical node located in the outside
 plant distribution system which terminates the fiber
 based downstream signal as an electrical signal onto a
 coaxial RF cable. Each fiber node is defined to support
 a certain service area, either defined by number of homes
 passed, or total amplifier cascade (# of active amplif-
 iers in the longest line from the node to the end of the
 line.)

Trunk Line A CATV "backbone" coaxial cable. This runs from an Opti-
 cal Node and through a specific neighborhood or serving
 area.

Branch Line Also "Feeder Cable". A coax cable which runs from a trunk line to a subscriber drop point.

M. StJohns

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Tap A passive device which divides the signal between the trunk or feeder lines and splits the signal into ports for subscriber drop access.

Drop A subscriber access point. From the tap to the home and the actual coax connection and wiring in the subscribers home.

Amplifier Amplifiers are used on coaxial segments of a CATV plant to restore signal levels lost due to attenuation through distance. Unfortunately amplifiers amplify noise as well as signal.

Channel A specific frequency allocation and bandwidth. Downstream channels used for television in the US are 6MHz wide (NTSC). International systems such as PAL and SECAM use 8MHz wide channels.

CATV Originally Community Antenna Television. Now used to refer to any cable (coax/fiber) based system provision of television services.

Homes Passed The number of homes or offices potentially servicable by a cable system either on a per node or per system basis.

Telephony ReturnA variant of a cable data system where the return path from the subscriber cable modem goes via a dialup (or ISDN) connection instead of over an upstream channel.

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